

*Department of Urban and Regional Planning*  
**School of Architecture and Planning**

**University at Buffalo**

**PD 512**

**Fall 2004**

## **Research Methods in Planning**

Days & Times: Mondays 6:00pm - 8:40pm  
 Location: Hayes 230  
 Instructor: Robert Silverman  
 Office: Hayes 201K  
 Hours: Monday 4:30pm - 6:00pm (and by appointment)  
 Phone: (716) 829-2133 x227  
 E-Mail: rms35@ap.buffalo.edu

TA: Eric Ameigh

### **The Course:**

This course is designed to expose graduates students to core concepts related to research design and methodology. During the semester you will develop the skills needed to plan and organize sound research projects. You will be responsible for a number of assignments; each is designed to assist you in developing fluency in the language of planning research. The semester goes by very quickly, so be diligent in your work and budget your time wisely. Moreover, most of the required readings apply directly to the assignments, so it is important to complete the readings well ahead of time and be prepared to discuss them in class. Late assignments will not be accepted.

The semester is divided into three phases. Each is intended to introduce you to issues central to research design. During the first part of the semester we will discuss various types of research designs and ethics in research. During the second part of the semester we will discuss survey research and secondary data analysis. At the end of the semester we will discuss qualitative research design and participatory action research.

The activities and requirements for the course are outlined in this syllabus. During each class session we will discuss the relevant readings and assignments. Students are expected to contribute to these discussions. Readings should be done in advance and students should be prepared to discuss them. Often, students will be asked to respond to questions and participate in classroom discussions that grow out of the readings. Therefore, it is important to be aware of what is happening in class. Regular attendance is required for full credit.

If you have any questions during the semester, please bring them to my attention or the TA's attention. I will be available during my office hours and by appointment. Also, you may contact me by phone or e-mail.

### **Required Text, Reserve Readings:**

[The required books are available at the UB Medical Bookstore]

Bonds, Michael. 2004. *Race, Politics, and Community Development Funding: The Discolor of Money*. New York: The Hawthorne Press.

de Vaus, David. 2001. *Research Design in Social Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

McNabb, David E. 2002. *Research Methods in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

Required Reserve Readings are available on E-Reserve, Blackboard, and the S: Drive.

**Optional Reference Materials\*:**

[The optional reference materials are available in the UB Medical Bookstore]

Pyrzczak, Fred and Randall R. Bruce. 2003. *Writing Empirical Research Reports, Fourth Edition*. Los Angeles, CA: Pyrczak Publishing.

Turbian, Kate L.. 1993. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Sixth Edition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Van Wagenen, R. Keith. 1990. *Writing a Thesis: Substance and Style*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

\*The optional reference materials are suggested for students who plan to write research papers, write a thesis, or pursue original research in the future.

**Course Requirements:**

***SBSIRB Online Tutorial:*** Complete UB's online tutorial for the Social and Behavioral Sciences Institutional Review Board. This activity affects 3% of the final grade. This tutorial is located at the following website: <https://www.research.buffalo.edu/tutorials/>. After completing the tutorial print out the screen that verifies you have completed this activity and turn it in at the beginning of class on September 27, 2004.

***Research Design Exam #1:*** This is an in-class exam. The exam will cover the readings and lectures focusing on various types of research designs and ethics in research. The exam affects 25% of the final grade. In the exam students will be expected to write short essays in response to a series of questions based on the readings and lectures. The exam will be held during regular class time on October 11, 2004.

***Survey Analysis Exercise:*** This assignment focuses on survey research and secondary data analysis. The assignment affects 22% of the final grade. In the assignment, students will be expected to examine an existing questionnaire and summarize data collected with it using SPSS software. This assignment will be discussed in class on October 18, 2004. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on November 8, 2004. Late assignments will not be accepted.

***Research Methods Critique:*** In this assignment, students will critique the book, *Race, Politics, and Community Development Funding The Discolor of Money*. The critique will focus on: the author's research design, its ability to address his research question, and the degree to which the study's conclusions can be generalized to other cities. The assignment affects 22% of the final grade. This assignment will be discussed in class on November 15, 2004. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on December 6, 2004. Late assignments will not be accepted.

***Research Design Exam #2:*** This is an in-class exam. The exam will cover the readings and lectures focusing on qualitative research design and participatory action research. The exam affects 25% of the final grade. In the exam students will be expected to write short essays in response to a series of questions based on the readings and lectures. The exam will be held during regular class time on December 13, 2004.

***Class Participation:*** Class participation affects 3% of the final grade. Often, students will be asked to respond to questions and participate in discussions that grow out of the readings and research assignments. To participate fully students must complete the assigned readings before class meetings and attend class regularly.

**Grading Policy:**

Your grade will be based on the following:

SBSIRB Online Tutorial	3 points
Research Design Exam #1	25 points
Survey Analysis Exercise	22 points
Research Methods Critique	22 points
Research Design Exam #2	25 points
Class Participation	3 points

**Grading Scale:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
A	95-100
A-	90-94.99
B+	87-89.99
B	84-86.99
B-	80-83.99
C+	77-79.99
C	70-76.99
D	60-69.99
F	0-59.99

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to approach the course with seriousness and integrity. It is important to complete assignments on time, attend class regularly, and foster a collegial learning environment. Plagiarism and other instances of academic misconduct will result in no credit and a failing grade on a respective assignment, exam, or paper. Students should refer to the *University at Buffalo Graduate Catalog* for clarification on the University's policies and procedures.

**Accommodations for Disabilities:**

If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that impacts your course work please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 25 Capen Hall, (716) 645-2608. ODS will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodation (such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on assignments). You must bring requests for accommodations for a disability to the professor's attention within the first two weeks of class.

**Writing Centers:**

The University at Buffalo has a number of writing center where students can get assistance with essays, term papers, and thesis projects. Students should contact one of the following if they would like to access these campus resources:

- Graduate students can contact the Graduate Student Association (GSA) about their Editorial Assistance Program. For information about this program go to the GSA office in 310 Student Union, (716) 645-2960; <http://wings.buffalo.edu/gsa/neweditorialassistance.htm> ,

- International students can contact the English Language Institute. The English Language Institute is located at 320 Baldy Hall; (716) 645-2077; [elibuffalo@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:elibuffalo@acsu.buffalo.edu); <http://wings.buffalo.edu/gse/eli> .

## **SYLLABUS**

### **August 30: Introduction to the Course / Research in Urban Planning**

*Assigned Readings:*

McNabb: (skim Ch 1, 2)

### **September 6: Labor Day – No Class Scheduled**

### **September 13: Research Design, the Research Process, and Research Reports**

*Assigned Readings:*

de Vaus: Ch 1, 2, 3

McNabb: 4, 5, 6, 24, 25

### **September 20: Experimental Design / Research Ethics**

*Assigned Readings:*

de Vaus: Ch 4, 5, 6

McNabb: Ch 3, (skim Ch 15)

“AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct” [webpage], available from:

<http://www.planning.org/ethics/conduct.html?>

“APA Ethical Principles in Planning” [webpage], available from:

<http://www.planning.org/ethics/ethics.html?>

*Other Activities:*

The second half of the class will be held in the computer lab (Hayes 239)

### **September 27: Longitudinal Design**

*Assigned Readings:*

de Vaus: Ch 7, 8, 9

Wagner, William E. III. 2004. “Beyond Dollars and Cents: Using Civic Capital to Fashion Urban Improvements.” *City & Community*, 3.2: 157-173. **(RESERVE)**

*Other Activities:*

The SBSIRB Online Tutorial Printout is Due at the Beginning of Class

### **October 4: Cross-Sectional Analysis**

*Assigned Readings:*

de Vaus: Ch 10, 11, 12

Scavo, Carmine. 1993. “The Use of Participative Mechanisms by Large US Cities.” *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 15.1: 93-109. **(RESERVE)**

*Other Activities:*

Discussion of Research Design Exam #1

### **October 11: Research Design Exam #1**

**October 18, 25 and November 1: Questionnaire Design, Quantitative Research, and Computers***Assigned Readings:*

McNabb: Ch 7, (skim Ch 8), 9, 10, 11, 12 (pp. 186-191 only), 13 (pp. 197-205 only), 16  
 West, Darrell. 2004. "E-Government and the Transformation of Service Delivery and Citizen Attitudes." *Public Administration Review*, 64.1: 15-27. **(RESERVE)**

*Other Activities:*

Discuss Survey Analysis Exercise on October 18, 2004  
 Parts of these classes will be held in the computer lab (Hayes 239)

**November 8: Case Study Design***Assigned Readings:*

de Vaus: Ch 13, 14, 15  
 McNabb: Ch (skim Ch 17), 18  
 Peterman, William. 2004. "Advocacy vs. Collaboration: Comparing Inclusionary Community Planning Models." *Community Development Journal*, 39.3: 266-276. **(RESERVE)**

*Other Activities:*

Survey Analysis Exercise Due at the Beginning of Class

**November 15: Field Notes and Interviewing in Qualitative Research***Assigned Readings:*

McNabb: (skim Ch 20)  
 Esterberg: Ch 4, 5 **(RESERVE)**

*Other Activities:*

Research Methods Critique Discussed

**November 22: Analysis in Qualitative Research***Assigned Readings:*

McNabb: Ch 19, 22, (skim Ch 23)  
 King, Cheryl Simrell, Kathryn M. Feltey and Bridget O'Neil Susel. 1998. "The Question of Participation: Toward Authentic Public Participation in Public Administration." *Public Administration Review*, 58.4:317-326. **(RESERVE)**  
 Silverman, Robert Mark. 2003. "Citizens' District Councils in Detroit: The Promise and Limits of Using Planning Advisory Boards to Promote Citizen Participation." *National Civic Review*, 92.4:3-13. **(RESERVE)**

**November 29: Participatory Action Research / Research Ethics***Assigned Readings:*

McNabb: Ch 21  
 Couch, Stephen R.. 2004. "A Tale of Three Discourses: Doing Action Research in a Research Methods Class." *Social Problems*, 51.5: 146-153. **(RESERVE)**  
 Strand, Kerry, Sam Marullo, Nick Cutforth, Randy Stoecker and Patrick Donohue. 2003. "Principles of Best Practice for Community-Based Research." *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 9.3: 5-15. **(RESERVE)**

**December 6: Research Methods Critique Due***Other Activities:*

Discussion of Research Design Exam #2

**December 13: Research Design Exam #2**